

When a profound silence covered all things  
and night was in the middle of its course,  
your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bound-  
ed from heaven's royal throne.



#### An Act of Spiritual Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if you were already there,  
and I unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
(Saint Alphonsus Liguori)

#### Prayer to St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in our daily battle; be our safeguard against  
the wickedness and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O  
Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust  
down into hell  
Satan and all the other evil spirits who prowl throughout  
the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

℣ Our Lady of Lourdes ℣ Pray for Us

℣ St. Theresa ℣ Pray for Us

℣ St. Anthony ℣ Pray for Us

## Confession & Absolution

**Confessions**  
Available after every weekday and  
Saturday Vigil Mass or by advanced  
booking.

Exposition of the Blessed  
Sacrament  
30 minutes before Weekday Mass

Anointing of the sick  
In cases of emergency only.

#### THE POWER TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD

Christmas season is all about the celebration of the mystery of the Incarnation. God made man. 'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.' Jesus left His glory and became like us in order to save us. John in the Gospel of today and the first reading from the book of wisdom give credence to the fact that He, the Wisdom/Word of God was God and was with God from the beginning. He became flesh in time to be like us. His presence brought light into the world to dispel every force of darkness. The world was full of darkness of wickedness, evil, corruption, oppression, violence and immorality before His birth. Thus, His birth brought light into the world to dispel every darkness of sin. Hence, John says "In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (Jn 1:4-5). Unfortunately, His light met rejection by His people. "The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him" (Jn 1:9-11). In this sense, to know God is to believe in Him, to build on Him and to share in His life. Not to know God means to avoid Him and to shut oneself off from the source of life that God is. This is another name for sin, understood as a rejection of God and a preference of the self or other values to God. Precisely, this was the sin of Israel; her refusal to believe in God as the Creator and the Saviour. This sin of refusal to listen to the Word and to hearken to His ways remains a possibility even in our own time. People knowingly or unknowingly reject Christ and His message. People prefer darkness of immorality, evil and wickedness to the light of holiness, love and kindness. Interestingly, there were those who accepted the Word, those who received the Light and as a result had the privilege of becoming children of God. To become a child of God is a grace given to us by God Himself and only to those who accept the Word of God in all freedom and in all sincerity. In summary,

## The True Light

which enlightens  
everyone ...

Jesus has come into the world to make us children of God. The choice is now ours to accept and believe that Jesus is the Word of God made flesh, so as to be children of God born or generated by God Himself. It is only then can we really have our home in Him, forever and always. I wish you a happy and wonderful New Year!  
FR BEDE



John 1:9

## St Theresa's and Our Lady of Lourdes with St Anthony's

Parish Priest: Fr. Bede Dike | Parish Office Tel: 0114 248 6102

Office Email: [olol.church@btinternet.com](mailto:olol.church@btinternet.com)

Website: <https://ourladyoflourdes-sttheresa.hallam-diocese.com/>



#### January Devotion: The Holy Name of Jesus

The Second Sunday of Christmas, Yr. A

4th January 2026  
Psalter Week 2

Saturday, 3rd January,

6.00pm, Our Lady of Lourdes – Thanksgiving

Sunday, 4th January,

8.30am, St Anthony's – Jack Mather & Rachel RIP

9.45am, Our Lady of Lourdes – Charles & Maureen Lynch RIP

11.00am, St. Theresa's – Henry & Francisca Onyeme (10th Wedding Anniversary)

Monday, 5th January, 10.00am, Our Lady of Lourdes

Christmas Weekday — The Sick & Housebound of Our Parishes

 **EPIPHANY**  
Tuesday, 6th January,  
10.00am, Our Lady of Lourdes

The Epiphany of the Lord — Conversion of Sinners

Wednesday, 7th January, 10.00am, Our Lady of Lourdes

Christmas Weekday – Fr Bede prays for your good heart's desires.

Thursday, 8th January, 11.00am,  
St. Theresa's  
With St Theresa's School

Christmas Weekday – Staff & Pupils of St Theresa's School

Friday, 9th January, 10.00am, Our Lady of Lourdes

Christmas Weekday — November Memorial List

#### Next Weekend's Masses (The Baptism of the Lord, Yr. A)

Saturday 10th January  
6.00pm, Our Lady of Lourdes -  
World Peace

Sunday 11th January

8.30am, St. Anthony's -  
Elizabeth Evans RIP

9.45am, Our Lady of Lourdes -  
Shane Chessum RIP

11.00am St. Theresa's -  
Catherine McGinty RIP (Anniversary)



#### Sanctuary Lamp Intentions

Our Lady of Lourdes: Thanksgiving  
Sponsor: Felicity's Family

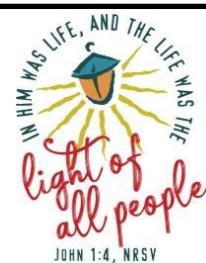


St. Anthony's: Sylvia Waller RIP  
Sponsor: Janet & Trevor Tandy

St. Theresa's: November Memorial List  
Sponsor: St Theresa's Parish

Sunday Readings:  
1<sup>st</sup> Sirach 24:1-2,8-12.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18.  
Gospel John 1:1-18.

Responsorial Psalm: 147.  
*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*



Gospel Acclamation, Cf. 1 Timothy 3:16.  
*Alleluia, alleluia.*

*Glory to you, O Christ, proclaimed among the nations. Glory to you, O Christ, believed in throughout the*



## Explore the Whole Bible Story

Welcome to a friendly Bible journey beginning soon in our parish. If you've ever started reading the Bible only to get stuck – or just want to deepen your faith – this group might be for you.

### Why Join?

- Build our confidence and deepen understanding in reading Scripture, including Mass readings.
- Strengthen our personal engagement with the Word of God.
- Learn more about our Catholic faith in a relaxed setting.

### When and Where

Thursdays, 6.30–8.00 pm – please note the corrected dates!

Community Hall

Date	Theme	Narrative Books
12 Feb 26	Intro to the Bible Timeline	
19 Feb	Early World	Genesis 1-11
26 Feb	Patriarchs	Genesis 12-50
5 Mar	Egypt and Exodus / Desert Wanderings	Exodus, Numbers
12 Mar	Conquest and Judges / Royal Kingdom	Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 Kings 1-11
19 Mar	Divided Kingdom / Exile and Return	1 Kings 12-22, 2 Kings, Ezra, Nehemiah
26 Mar	Maccabees Revolt / Messianic Fulfilment 1	1 Maccabees, Luke 1-21
9 Apr	Messianic Fulfilment 2 and The Church	Luke 22-24, Acts

**What to Bring**  
Any Catholic Bible (we'll be using the RSV Second Catholic Edition). Interested? We're keeping the group small so everyone has a chance to share.

For more info contact Sami and Laurie:  
hargreaves.sami08@gmail.com  
patch.laurie@gmail.com

## Love & Beauty in St John's Spiritual Canticle,

20 - 22 February 2026

2026 marks the centenary of the declaration of St John of the Cross as a Doctor of the Church. In honour of this anniversary, Fr Matthew Blake, OCD will offer a weekend reflecting on the themes of love and beauty in the most celebrated poetry of the great Spanish mystic.

<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/love-beauty-in-st-johns-spiritual-canticle/>

## Weekend Cash Collections 27th/28th December

Our Lady of Lourdes..... £415.91

St Anthony's..... £97.10

St Theresa's .....£TBC

Thank you.



These QR Codes can be used to make an offering using your smartphone.  
Simply scan the relevant QR code and follow the on screen instructions.

OLOL/St. Anthony's



St. Theresa's



## Please pray for all the elderly, the sick and the housebound of our three churches including those named below.

Rita O'Hara, Clare Roberts, Jennie Heenan, Caitlin Rose Goss, Beryl Stafford, Jean Grove, Liliana Poole, Jean White, Shirley Foster, Sean Kilcoyne, Avis Hurst, Gloria Andrews, Chena Drakesmith, Marj Hall, Melvin Hanlon, John Carroll, Joan Hill, Claire Lawson, Patricia Foster, Christopher Browne, Mr. Shannon, Margaret Betson, Paul Manning, Annabel Taylor, John Nicholson, Philomena Walker, Lesley Osborne, Gail Hook, Elizabeth Dodson, Gemma Thomas, David Dowling,

Fr. David Stafford, Ursula & Paul Parker, Tessa Taylor.

Please pray for the repose of the recently deceased souls & those whose anniversaries occur about this time.



*They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ~Matthew 2:10-11*

All of God's creation gives Him glory and praises Him by its very existence. Psalm 143 states, "Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all shining stars. Praise him, highest heavens, you waters above the heavens. Let them all praise the LORD's name; for he commanded and they were created..." Though creation gives praise to God simply by existing and thus, revealing its Creator, today's solemnity commemorates the one moment in time when God used a star to manifest His eternal glory.

At the time of Jesus' birth, it was commonly believed that a new star would appear whenever a new ruler was born. The Father in Heaven used this belief to honour His Son Who was born as the new King. The three Magi from the East were astrologers. When they saw this "new star," they chose to follow it to discover the new King. Creation itself, in the form of a star, pointed the way, thus giving glory to the newborn King, manifesting Him to the whole world as symbolized by the Magi. The word "Epiphany" means "manifestation." Therefore, as we honour this moment in time when the Christ Child was made manifest to the world, we need to look into our own hearts. There, we discover Christ's ongoing manifestation to us so that we can worship Him Who has also chosen to be born within our hearts. We must diligently seek out that manifestation of God within us and respond to it in the same ways that the Magi responded.

First of all, the Magi were determined. When they saw a sign from the heavens that pointed to a new King, they stopped everything and departed in haste to find Him. When God speaks to you and manifests Himself to you in some way, nothing could be more important than to be attentive to His voice and follow His manifestation with the same haste.

The Magi brought the Christ Child gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. God was honoured and glorified through His creation by the giving of these gifts. God created gold to manifest His beauty and dignity. It was a gift that symbolized kingship. When we ponder the natural gift of gold given to the Christ Child, we are inspired to give Him our own gift of symbolic gold by prayerfully acknowledging Him as our own King to whom we pledge our complete submission.

Made from the sap of trees found in India, northeastern Africa, and the Arabian Peninsula, frankincense and myrrh are also fruits of God's creation. Used in worship to symbolize prayers rising to heaven, frankincense symbolizes the Christ Child's divinity. We offer frankincense to Christ when we acknowledge His divine nature, since He is God in the flesh. Often used in burial, myrrh honours the Christ Child Who came to give His life as a sacrifice for many. We offer myrrh to profess our belief in the saving power of Christ's death on the Cross and our need for that gift of salvation. As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany, try to see it as a historical event in which you are invited to share. God wants to manifest Himself to you today. When this happens, you must respond with faith and worship, giving God the greatest glory by giving Him your very life and offering Him your spiritual gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

*Prayer: Most glorious Christ Child, the Father in Heaven honoured Your birth by placing a star over the place where you lay. Through that new star, Your divine presence was made manifest to the world in the Magi who responded with faith and worship. Please manifest Yourself to me within my own soul where You wish to be born and give me the love and zeal, I need to follow the example of the Magi, offering You my own gifts in adoration and trust. Jesus, I trust in You.*



The bulletin for January has been sponsored by Caitlyn Mensah-Olojede in celebration of their birthday. Thank you.